weighed on machine found the difference by 0.25 M.T. to 16.5 M.T. costing nearly Rs. 5 lakhs;

(b) whether it is a fact that weigh bridges in the collieries of Western Coalfields are made to remain out of order or are outdated and therefore frequent break downs occur.

(c) whether it is also a fact that Junnar Deo Weigh bridge is operating only for half the days of the year; and

(d) what corrective steps are being taken in this direction?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) According to information furnished by Western Coalfields Ltd., (WCL), Junnardeo weighbridge was out of order during the first four days of May, 1991. During this period loading was done on volumetric basis. WCL have stated that they are not aware of any complaint of the nature mentioned.

(b) No, Sir. Although weighbridges do sometimes breakdown like any other machinery, their average availability is of a high order.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. For example, in the month of May, 1991, Junnardeo weigh-bridge was out of order for the first four days, but was functioning well for the rest of the month. WCL has taken up the matter of proper maintenance with the concerned company which maintain Junnordeo weighbridge, and have instructed it to further improve its maintenance and availability.

1035. [*Transferred to 31st July, 1991*]

Lifting of ban on Japanese firms for tenders floated by I.O.C.

1036. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a ban on Japanese companies on the participation in tenders floated by Indian Oil Corporation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Government of India have lifted the ban recently; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) Orders were issued to Public Sector Undertakings under the then Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals in December 1989, not to give further business to the Consortium of Japanese Companies which functioned under the name of M/s. Sumitomo Corporation. These orders were withdrawn in May, 1991 after agreements between M/s. Sumitomo Corporation and PNGC/GAIL to refer their contractual dispute to arbitration.

Increase in the number of flights between Zurich and Delhi

1037. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether some additional flights between Zurich and Delhi have recently been started; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Swissair was operating 7 flights a week through Bombay till 23-6-1991. However, keeping in view the traffic requirements, they have shifted three of their services to Delhi with effect from 24-6-1991.

तापीय विद्युत संयंत्रों को कोयले की आपूर्ति

1038. **डा. जितेन्द्र कुमार जैन :**
सरदार जगजीत सिंह अरोड़ा :

क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :